

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims read as follows:

1. (currently amended) A fried composition which comprises:
 - a) a food portion: and
 - b) at least one starch succinate-~~derivative~~ adhered directly on the food portion to form a coated food portion which is subsequently fried or par-fried, wherein the starch has been substituted with succinate.
2. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the starch has been converted.
3. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the starch succinate ~~derivative~~ has a water fluidity of at least about 30 and no more than about 85.
4. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the starch succinate ~~derivative~~ has a water fluidity of at least about 50 and no more than about 85.
5. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the starch has been treated with succinic anhydride at a level of at least about 1 % and no more than about 4%.
6. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the starch has been treated with succinic anhydride at a level of at least about 2.5% and no more than about 4%.
7. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the starch has been pregelatinized.
8. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one non-succinated starch adhered directly on the food portion or on the starch succinate ~~derivative~~.
9. (canceled)
10. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition has a reduced fat content relative to an uncoated composition.
11. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, characterized by a percent fat reduction of at least 30% by weight.
12. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of fish, meat, poultry, meat-substitute, cheese, breads, fruit and vegetable.
13. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is a fried potato product.

14. (currently amended) A process of preparing the fried food composition of claim 1 comprising:
 - a) blanching a food portion;
 - b) applying at least one succinated starch ~~derivative~~ to the blanched food portion, wherein the starch has been substituted with succinate; and
 - c) frying and/or par-frying the coated food portion.
15. (previously presented) The process of claim 14, wherein the coated food portion is par-fried, further comprising (d) freezing the par-fried coated food portion to form a frozen food portion.
16. (previously presented) The process of claim 15, further comprising (e) reconstituting the frozen food portion.
17. (original) The process of claim 16, wherein reconstitution is by frying.
18. (original) The process of claim 16 wherein reconstitution is by oven heating.
19. (original) A food composition prepared by the process of claim 14.
20. (currently amended) A process of preparing the fried food composition of claim 1 comprising:
 - a) blanching a food portion in water containing at least one succinated starch ~~derivative~~, wherein the starch has been substituted with succinate; and
 - b) frying and/or par-frying the coated food portion.
21. (previously presented) The process of claim 20, further comprising applying at least one coating comprising at least one starch to the blanched food portion.
22. (original) A food composition prepared by the process of claim 21.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 and 10-22 were pending.

Claims 1 and 10-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bell, et al. (US 4,504,509) and Mizoguchi, et al (US 5,362,510).

Claims 2-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell, et al. (US 4,504,509) in view of Richards, et al. (US 4,035,235).

Claims 8 and 13-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being patentable over Bell, et al. (US 4,504,509) in view of Wu et al. (US 5,648,110).

Claims 1, 2 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being patentable over Shi, et al. (US 2003/0099744).

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 14 and 20 have been amended.

Claims 1-8 and 10-22 are presented for reconsideration.